

**Question for written answer E-006406/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Francesc Gambús (PPE)**

Subject: Environmental problems in the Ebro River Delta

The Ebro River Delta is home to one of the largest nature reserves in southern Europe. Over the last few weeks of August, the streamflow in this stretch of the river has fallen below 80 cubic metres per second, under the minimum threshold set by law. However, according to data from 29 August, the reservoirs in this final stretch are at 75% (Mequinenza) and 98% (Riba-Roja) of capacity. Given that falls in the amount of freshwater have serious environmental repercussions for the river, such as increasing the river's salinity,

1. Does the Commission agree with the Catalan government's Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA) that the competent authorities should ensure that the reservoirs are managed in such a way as to consider environmental issues rather than merely hydroelectric interests?
2. Does the Commission have information on the effects that low freshwater flows could have on the Ebro Delta's ecosystem?
3. Can the Commission provide a preliminary analysis of the river basin management plans submitted by Spain?